

CLAIMS

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1. A method for delivery of scheduled broadcasted programs from a media
5 delivery center to one or more client machines via a transmission media, said
method comprising:

 caching program content of broadcasted programs in local storage
associated with the media delivery center, the broadcasted programs being
produced externally;

10 delivering the broadcasted programs to the one or more client machines
by streaming the program content from the local storage to the one or more
client machines via the transmission medium;

 receiving a pause request from at least a particular one of the client
machines requesting to pause a particular one of the broadcasted programs
15 being delivered to the particular one of the client machines; and
performing the pause request by server-side retention of the program content for
the particular one of the broadcasted programs so as to render the program
content following the pause request to be subsequently available to a device
chosen by a user of the particular one of the client machines.

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2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said performing of the pause
request by the server-side retention comprises recording a location in the local
storage for the particular one of the broadcasted programs.

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3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said performing of the pause
request by the server-side retention comprises recording the program content for
the particular one of the broadcasted programs in an allocated storage space
associated with the media delivery center.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the transmission medium comprises one or more of the Internet, a private/public data network, a cable network, a public telephone network, and a wireless network.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the program content is in digital data form suitable for transmission over the transmission medium..

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:
determining whether an account for the particular one of the clients permits the pause request; and
ignoring the pause request when said determining determines that the account does not permit the particular one of the clients to pause.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:
subsequently receiving a play request from the particular one of the clients requesting to receive the program content for the particular one of the broadcasted programs that has been server-side retained following the pause request; and
thereafter, in response to the play request, delivering a remaining portion of the particular one of the broadcasted programs to at least the particular one of the clients by streaming the program content for the particular one of the broadcasted programs that has been server-side retained from the local storage to the particular one of the clients via the transmission medium.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said delivering of the remaining portion is directed to a location indicated by the play request.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the location differs from an initial location where the particular one of the clients received the delivery of an initial portion of the particular one of the broadcasted programs.

10. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said delivering of the broadcasted programs by the streaming is performed in accordance with a schedule.

11. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the transmission medium comprises one or more of the Internet, a private/public data network, a public telephone network, a cable network, and a wireless network.

12. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the location is one of (i) an IP address and (ii) a telephone number.

13. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:
determining whether an account for the particular one of the clients permits the pause request; and

ignoring the pause request when said determining determines that the account does not permit the particular one of the clients to pause.

14. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said method further comprises:
determining whether an account for the particular one of the clients permits the pause request; and

notifying the particular one of the clients that the pause request has been processed.

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15. A media delivery server that provides media program content to client machines, the media delivery server comprising:

an access to a storage area, said storage area storing program content for programs being delivered to the client machines;

an account manager, said account manager operating to determine whether a request from one of the client machine is authorized based on account information accessible by said account manager;

a program streaming manager, said program streaming manager operating to stream the program content for the programs to the client machines in accordance with a schedule; and

a pause/replay manager, said pause manager receiving a pause request from a particular client machine, and causing the remaining program content for the program being streamed to the particular client machine to be retained in said storage area so that it is subsequently available for retrieval when said pause/replay manager receives a replay request.

16. A media delivery server as recited in claim 15, wherein said media delivery server couples to the client machines over a transmission medium that includes one or more of the Internet, a private/public data network, a public telephone network, and a wireless network.

17. A media delivery server as recited in claim 15, wherein the program content is stored and streamed in an MPEG format.

18. A computer readable medium including computer program code for delivery of scheduled broadcasted programs from a media delivery center to one

or more clients via a transmission media, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for caching program content of broadcasted programs in local storage associated with the media delivery center;

5 computer program code for delivering the broadcasted programs to the one or more client machines by streaming the program content from the local storage to the one or more client machines via the transmission medium;

computer program code for receiving a pause request from at least a particular one of the client machines requesting to pause a particular one of the
10 broadcasted programs being delivered to the particular one of the client machines; and

computer program code for performing the pause request by server-side retention of the program content for the particular one of the broadcasted programs so as to render the program content following the pause request to be
15 subsequently available to the user of the particular one of the client machines.

19. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein the transmission medium comprises at least one of the Internet, a private/public data network, a public telephone network, and a wireless network.

20. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein said computer program code for delivering of the broadcasted programs by the streaming is performed in accordance with a schedule.

25 21. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein said computer program code for performing of the pause request by the server-side retention operates to record the program content for the particular one of the

broadcasted programs in the local storage associated with the media delivery center.

22. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein said
5 computer readable medium further comprises:

computer program code for determining whether an account for the particular one of the client machines permits the pause request; and

computer program code for ignoring the pause request when said computer program code for determining determines that the account does not
10 permit the particular one of the client machines to pause.

23. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein said method further comprises:

computer program code for receiving a play request from the particular
15 one of the client machines requesting to receive the program content for the particular one of the broadcasted programs that has been server-side retained following the pause request; and

computer program code for delivering, in response to the play request, a remaining portion of the particular one of the broadcasted programs to at least
20 the particular one of the client machines by streaming the program content for the particular one of the broadcasted programs that has been server-side retained from the local storage to the particular one of the client machines via the transmission medium.

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